Inclusion of different castes in SC/ST list

†1648. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different castes have been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each State of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this system, many people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are getting deprived of the facilities available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) In view of Article 341(1) and 342(1) of the Constitution, the specification of communities as Scheduled Castes - and Scheduled Tribes has been done in respect of a State/Union Territory and the details thereof are contained in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders as amended from time to time. The benefits are accordingly admissible to them.

Proposals for grants to Rajasthan

1649. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Rajasthan Government for Central grants during the last three years and the status of their disposal;

(b) the number of proposals pending at present; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the speedy disposal of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In the year 2007-08, so far 93 proposals under various NGO schemes have been received. These proposals are at various stages of processing. In respect of the proposals for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07, the information is being collected.

Reservation for upper caste

†1650. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the statement made by the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition wherein they have pleaded for giving the facility of reservation to the poor people of upper castes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study also in this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) A Commission for Economically Backward Classes has been constituted to suggest *inter-alia*, criteria for identification of economically backward classes, recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government employment.

(d) The term of the Commission has been extended for a period of one year *i.e.* upto 31.1.2008.

Projects for primitive tribes in Rajasthan

1651. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of primitive tribes in Rajasthan;

(b) their population, tribe-wise;

(c) their educational level;

(d) their nutritional level;

(e) their source of livelihood;

(f) whether Government have any special projects for them; and

(g) if so, the details of the projects already implemented and those to be implemented in future, tribe-wise, area-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There is only one Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) in Rajasthan *i.e.* Saharia. As per the information submitted by the State Government based on survey conducted in 2002, the total population of Saharia PTGs in Rajasthan is 79,372.

(c) As per the survey of 2002 conducted by State Government, the overall literacy rate of Saharia PTGs is 23.33%.

(d) The information of nutritional level is not maintained by the Ministry.

(e) As per the survey conducted by State Government during 2002, Saharias earn their livelihood mainly from agriculture labour and a small population is dependent on agriculture, forests and other activities.

(f) and (g) The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive 100% Central Sector Scheme *viz.* ''Development of Primitive Tribal Groups'' since 1998-99 for over all development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) including Saharia PTGs. It is a very flexible scheme which may cover developmental activities like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development,